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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I don't have the figures here. If the hon. Member is interested, I am prepared to give the particulars later."

Reconstruction of the bridges in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar.

* 275 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridges at Vatavanthoor and Karimkiel in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar, have completely broken down, and if so, for how long; and

(b) the steps taken so far by the Government either to repair or to put fresh bridges at these places?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) The wooden deck of the bridge at Vatavanthoor broke down a month back under the weight of unauthorised lorry traffic. The two bridges at Karimkiel are in a fair condition for light traffic.

" (b) The Malabar District Board has taken up the work of renewing the whole deck of Vatavanthoor bridge. The work of reconstructing the two bridges at Karimkiel has been sanctioned for execution under the Post-war Road Development Programme. The works will be taken up by the Malabar District Board during 1953–54 if funds become available."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that when the rainy season comes the whole traffic will be paralysed with unfordable streams impeding all traffic? If so, will they expedite the construction of the bridges before June? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" It is recognized that this road is a very important road, but masonry bridges cost more than Rs. 2·3 lakhs. I think necessary steps are being taken to have masonry bridges."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that bridges are rather important and in view of the fact that the Malabar District Board is notoriously bankrupt in its finances, if the expectation of the Minister that the finances of the district are likely to improve during the year 1953–54 does not come to pass, will the Government consider the question of executing the construction of bridges themselves? " 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" These works may be included in the Five-year Plan so that both the Government and the District Board may aid their execution."

Statistics re *the amount of water flowing into the Arabian sea from Malabar.*

* 276 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Public Works

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Department have taken any statistics regarding the amount of water flowing into the Arabian sea as waste during the heavy rains and floods in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Do the Government get any statistics about loss due to soil erosion due to the rivers not being harnessed for irrigation purposes? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" This does not arise from the present question."

Construction of roads and bridges in Wynaad under Vipan Scheme.

* 277 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri M. K. Padmaprabha Gounder is not in his place, the question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of roads and bridges in Wynaad, recommended to be constructed under the Vipan Scheme and how many of them have actually been constructed to date?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A bridge across Panamaram Puzha in Manantoddy-Panamaram-Vayitri road and a bridge across Manantoddy Puzha on the same road. Neither work has been executed."

Reconstruction of the Kunnath bridge across Mampuzha river, Malabar.

* 278 *Q.*—SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the Kunnath bridge across the Mampuzha river in Kozhikode taluk has been in a state of disrepair; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to reconstruct this bridge or repair it?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) The bridge, which is a wooden one, is being maintained in a fair condition.

" (*b*) The work of reconstructing the bridge at the place is included in the Five-year Plan of Post-war Road Development and it will be taken up for execution in due course."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know the probable date by which this work will be taken up? It is a very important bridge and if the Government have not got funds, will the general public be allowed to repair it at least? "